

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 DRC-01 /076 W

----- 098596

R 080159Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2417

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, FR

SUBJECT: BIO INFORMATION ON YUN SUK-HEUN

REF: PARIS 2439

1. ROKG ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 4 THAT VICE FONMIN YUN SUK-HEUN HAS BEEN APPOINTED NEW ROK AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, REPLACING AMBASSADOR CHUNG IL-YUNG. YUN WILL BE REPLACED AS VICE MINISTER BY AMBASSADOR LHO SHIN-YONG, WHO HAD BEEN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN NEW DELHI.

2. VICE MINISTER YUN HAS LONG BEEN REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MOFA OUTSTANDING CAREER OFFICERS. HE WAS BORN NOVEMBER 17, 1922 AND GRADUATED FROM SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN 1949. DURING THE KOREAN WAR HE SERVED AS AN OFFICER IN THE ROK AIR FORCE. IN 1953 HE ENTERED MOFA, WHERE HE HAS HELD A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT POLICY POSITIONS. HIS OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENTS HAVE INCLUDED TWO TOURS IN WASHINGTON, THE SECOND AS MINISTER OF THE ROK EMBASSY FROM 1963-1966. HE HAS ALSO BEEN POSTED TO BONN AND CAIRO, AND IN 1967 HE WAS NAMED ROK AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES, A POSITION HE HELD UNTIL 1969, WHEN HE BECAME VICE FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. DURING HIS LONG TENURE AS THE NUMBER TWO OFFICIAL IN MOFA, VICE MINISTER YUN HAS HAD A MAJOR ROLE IN SHAPING ROK FOREIGN POLICY TO FIT THE DEMANDS BOTH OF A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT IN ASIA AND AN EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. COMPETENT, ARTICULATE, AND QUIETLY TENACIOUS, HE HAS COMMANDED RESPECT AS A
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ROKG OFFICIAL WITH WHOM FOREIGNERS CAN ENGAGE IN STRAIGHTFORWARD

AND FRANK DISCUSSION OF ISSUES. YUN IS SOFT SPOKEN, INTELLIGENT AND UNASSUMING IN MANNER. HE HAS EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH AMERICANS. HE AND HIS WIFE SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH. MRS. YUN IS A PARTICULARLY WARM, CHARMING PERSON.

4. YUN HAS BEEN A RESPECTED AND VALUED COLLEAGUE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COURTESIES EMBASSY PARIS MIGHT EXTEND HIM.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: rowelle0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL00966
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740245/aaaabqeb.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARIS 2439
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: rowelle0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27-Sep-2002 by rowelle0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIO INFORMATION ON YUN SUK-HEUN
TAGS: PFOR, KS, FR, (CHUMG IL YUNG), (SHIN KEE HEUM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005